

**August
2016**

Rhodes Vet Clinic

**Volume 6
Issue 8**

Newsletter

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August is Dental Month



**Pets Need
Dental Care, Too.**

We are running a pet dental month promotion throughout August.

An initiative of the Australian Veterinary Association (AVA), the aim of the campaign titled – *Smile! Your vet's got it covered* - is to educate pet owners about the benefits of annual dental health checks and the importance of a thorough dental examination to help prevent gum disease.

Four out of five dogs and cats over the age of three years have some sort of dental disease which may go unnoticed by their owners. About 80 per cent of adult animals have some degree of dental disease, which becomes more severe with age. Dogs that have retained their puppy teeth should have them removed before the age of twelve months.

Pets often won't show pain. Even pets with sore gums, infected mouths and broken teeth will continue to eat so owners may not see any problems.

So how can you tell if your dog or cat has a toothache?

Your pet's breath should not smell bad. Bad breath is a sign of infection. Gums may be red and inflamed and the teeth stained with tartar or they may start dropping food.

Conducting an oral examination during your pet's annual dental health check is an ideal opportunity for owners to find out if their pet has existing problems which have gone unnoticed. Dental health checks also help ensure bacteria and poisons from dental infections do not spread to the heart, liver and kidneys through the blood stream.

We also recommend regular tooth brushing and many cats and dogs can be trained to enjoy having their teeth brushed, especially if you start at an early age.

We offer reasonably priced routine and more complex dentals so please book in for a FREE dental check up during the month of August to allow us to assess what dental work (if any) is required and provide you with a quote.



We provide:

- Surgery & Medicine for small and large animals
- Herd Health Advice
- Soft Tissue & Orthopaedic Surgery
- Dentistry
- Digital X-ray
- Ultrasound
- In House Blood Testing
- Nutrition
- Prescription Diets
- Microchip Identification

Simpson Office:

Our Simpson Office is open
Monday, Wednesday, Friday
10am to 3pm
P: 03 5594 3257

Colac Office:

Our Colac Office is open
Monday to Friday
8am to 6pm
Saturday 9am to 12 noon
www.rhodesveterinaryclinic.com.au

**We are available 24/7
for emergencies.
Our emergency number
is:
5232 2111**

Footrot / Lameness in Cattle

Most of you will be familiar with footrot in cattle, a bacterial and sometimes fungal infection of the skin in the interdigital cleft of cattle, ie between the toes. It is a common cause of lameness especially during the wetter months when cows feet remain in wet mud most of the time and when walking long distances to and from the dairy.

Often farmers reach for the penicillin... **WRONG!** Stop reaching for antibiotics! This should not be your first step! Lift the foot and look between the toes for a stone. Look at the sole and check if it is worn down. Feel the foot, if it is **NOT** hot or swollen then it is **NOT** infected and will **NOT** respond to antibiotics.

So what is the best way to prevent, control and treat footrot in the herd? You can't go past copper sulphate, otherwise known as bluestone. Used as a foot bath weekly or on mats as the cows enter the dairy is a great way to dry out cows feet and stop footrot from taking hold. Copper sulphate can also be used to treat footrot. Many cases will clear up with daily foot bathing. Deeper infections tend to need the foot picked up, cleaned and a copper sulphate bandage or a cow slip / block applied. This is labour intensive but very effective.

If you find a hot and swollen foot please contact us to discuss the best course of treatment.



ATTENTION FARMERS:

If you are planning a large herd programme please ensure that you call us several days prior to ensure that we have enough of the products on hand that you may require.



RVC Football Tipping Update:

Results after Round 19:

1. Kosta 123
2. Cindy 122
3. Tom 122
4. Emma 119
5. Nathan 119